

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIM

1. (Currently amended) A seal configuration for use with closure doors on blowout preventer pressure vessels, the seal configuration comprising:

a blowout preventer pressure vessel body that contains internal pressure, the body having an opening with inwardly tapered peripheral sidewalls;

a closure that closes the opening, the closure serving as a door adapted to be opened and closed at will, the closure having an attachment portion larger than the opening with a planar surface ~~from which projects~~, the closure having an axially projecting stopper portion that projects directly from the planar surface and fits closely and entirely within the opening, the stopper portion having an endless peripheral seal groove extending in spaced relation around the axis in which is positioned a peripheral seal that sealingly engages the tapered peripheral sidewalls of the body in interference fit relation, thereby conforming to the tapered peripheral sidewalls; and

a backing ring of pliable memory retaining material sheltered from internal pressure within the body by the peripheral seal and positioned in close fitting relation around the projecting stopper portion between the peripheral seal groove and the planar surface of the attachment portion of the closure, the backing ring being axially supported against pressure from the opening entirely by the planar surface, the backing ring engaging the tapered peripheral sidewall of the body in interference fit relation and conforming to the tapered peripheral sidewall while being sufficiently stiff as to resist extrusion flow under pressure, such that when the peripheral seal deforms in response to an increase in internal pressure within the body and extrusion gaps begin to form between the attachment portion of the closure and the body, the peripheral seal is extruded in an axial direction against the backing ring, the backing ring plastically extruding radially outward along the planar surface, wherein that portion of the backing ring engaging the tapered peripheral sidewall of the body plastically ~~deforming~~ deforms

by changing shape and applying sealing pressure at the extrusion gaps to prevent the peripheral seal from entering the extrusion gaps.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100